

EPIC ▪ MRA – YOUR CHILD

Statewide Survey of Parents — May 2004

Questions on Sex Education

More than 1,000 parents in Michigan took part in a groundbreaking study sponsored by a group of education and family organizations. The study, conducted by EPIC-MRA, includes parents and guardians of school-aged children throughout the state and was conducted via phone in April 2004. The error rate is plus or minus 3.1 percent.

The data is part of a larger study, commissioned by the newly formed group called Your Child. The group consists of the Michigan PTSA, the Michigan Education Association (MEA), the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel (MFT&SRP), the Middle Cities Education Association, the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals, the Michigan Association of School Administrators, Michigan's Children the Family Independence Agency, the Wisconsin Education Association Council, and Cyberstate.

Several questions were asked about parent support for sex education in schools. Below are parents' responses.

Do you think sex education should be taught in school?	
78%	Yes
17%	No
5%	Undecided/don't know

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view about how sex education should be taught in school?	
10%	Students should only be taught about the importance of abstinence from sex, and should NOT be taught about how to use condoms and other forms of contraception as a means of protection from pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases
3%	Students should only be taught how to use condoms and other forms of contraception as a means of protecting themselves from pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and should not be taught about abstinence
70%	Students should be taught about both abstinence and how to use condoms and other forms of contraceptives
11%	Students should not be taught sex education in school at all, because that is the responsibility of parents and not the schools
6%	Undecided/don't know

Resources

EPIC MRA

Your Child Parent-Teacher Survey: Part I

<http://www.epicmra.com/>

<http://www.mea.org/design.cfm?p=5651>